

ORIGINAL
FILE

ORIGINAL

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

JUN - 1 1992

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Parts 2, 21, and 94)
of the Commission's Rules To)
Accommodate Private Microwave)
Systems in the 1.71-1.85 GHz Band)
and in Bands Above 3 GHz)

RM-7981

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF TELOCATOR

Telocator, the Personal Communications Industry Association ("Telocator"), by its attorneys, respectfully submits its comments regarding the petition for rulemaking filed by the Utilities Telecommunications Council ("UTC") in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ UTC requests rule changes to provide for the use of frequencies in the 1.71-1.85, 3.7-4.2, 5.925-6.425, and 10.7-11.7 GHz bands by private microwave systems. As detailed below, Telocator supports prompt action on this rulemaking request, expanded to incorporate the concerns of common carriers as well, as an

¹ Petition for Rulemaking in the Matter of Amendment of Parts 2, 21, and 94 of the Commission's Rules To Accommodate Private Microwave Systems in the 1.71-1.85 GHz Band and in Bands Above 3 GHz (filed Mar. 31, 1992) ["UTC Petition"]. By public notice released May 1, 1992, the FCC set comment and reply dates of June 1 and June 16, 1992, respectively. FCC Public Notice, Mimeo No. 2293 (June 1, 1992).

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

0+4

important effort to facilitate the accommodation of existing 2 GHz licensees.

As the national trade association for the personal communications services industry, Telocator's members include common carrier and private paging companies, cellular telephone companies, and new personal communications service companies. Telocator encourages the Commission to take prompt steps to ensure a seamless transition for any 2 GHz microwave licensees relocating to new, suitable spectrum.²

I. THE COMMISSION SHOULD ENSURE A SEAMLESS TRANSITION FOR 2 GHz MICROWAVE LICENSEES RELOCATING TO NEW SPECTRUM

Telocator's cellular members make heavy use of 2 GHz microwave facilities in connection with their provision of important mobile telecommunications services to the public. The microwave facilities are used to link cell sites with one another as well as to interconnect the cell sites with the mobile telephone switching office. These paths thus play a critical role in a publicly-oriented service.

Telocator's paging members likewise employ microwave capacity in their systems. While the number of paths they operate may be fewer in number than those found in connection with cellular networks, such facilities are of critical importance to the paging service offering. Moreover, many of

² Redevelopment of Spectrum To Encourage Innovation in the Use of New Telecommunications Technologies, 7 FCC Rcd 1542 (1992) ["Notice"].

these paging companies are small businesses with limited resources.

Telocator firmly believes that the Commission cannot expect existing users of fixed microwave facilities to move from the 2 GHz band without first having made provision for continued operation at the alternative replacement frequencies. Such action is a necessary prerequisite in order to minimize disruption to existing mobile telecommunications services provided to the public in accordance with good faith reliance on Commission policies.

II. UTC'S PROPOSED RULE REVISIONS SHOULD ALSO ACCOMMODATE
2 GHZ COMMON CARRIER LICENSEES

As UTC points out, the Notice proposing to reallocate the 2 GHz band for emerging technologies does not address any specific governing rules for displaced fixed microwave users. Rather, the Commission merely proposes to grant a "blanket" waiver of the eligibility requirements in the bands above 3 GHz. The current applicable technical rules and coordination procedures, however, would continue to apply for the respective bands.³

The UTC Petition urges the Commission "to develop specific rules to accommodate both the technical, as well as the legal eligibility, requirements of any displaced 2 GHz

³

Notice, 7 FCC Rcd at 1545.

systems."⁴ The UTC Petition is targeted at meeting the needs of its members, which are private microwave licensees. The development of necessary rules will aid in the transition.

Telocator wishes to emphasize that conforming amendments are also needed to meet the needs of common carrier users of the 2.11-2.13 and 2.16-2.18 GHz frequencies. Areas to be targeted for review should include:

- Channelization plans;
- Minimum path length requirements;
- Loading specifications;
- Antenna standards; and
- Modulation efficiency standards.

UTC's proposals apparently are the first in what may be a number of suggestions to be presented as to how best to accommodate current 2 GHz uses in other frequency bands. A petition for rulemaking has been filed by Alcatel Network Systems, Inc. ("Alcatel"), a manufacturer of microwave equipment for both private operators and common carriers.⁵ After undertaking "a thorough examination of appropriate frequency diversity limitations, antenna characteristics, minimum system loading, frequency band channel allocations,

⁴ UTC Petition at 4.

⁵ Alcatel Network Systems, Inc. Petition for Rulemaking in the Matter of Amendment of Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94 of the Commission's Rules To Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Op-Fixed Microwave Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-_____ (filed May 22, 1992).

minimum path length requirements, frequency planning and coordination criteria, bandwidth limitations, power limitations, and automatic transmit power control,"⁶ Alcatel has made a number of very specific reallocation and rechannelization proposals.

Telocator also has had discussions with the Telecommunications Industry Association ("TIA") concerning the Commission's emerging technologies docket. Telocator accordingly understands that TIA will be presenting its own set of recommendations to the Commission for steps to accommodate the displaced 2 GHz users. Telocator expects it will review both the Alcatel and TIA plans and submit appropriate comments.

III. CONCLUSION

UTC has proposed an examination of the technical requirements necessary to relocate 2 GHz licensees. This review should ensure that the needs of licensees in the 2.11-2.13 and 2.16-2.18 GHz are met as well. The adoption of such rules will help to reduce regulatory barriers that might

⁶ Id. at 17.

otherwise preclude successful accommodation of these common carrier and private microwave licensees in new bands.

Respectfully submitted,

TELOCATOR, THE PERSONAL
COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

By: Thomas A. Stroup
Thomas A. Stroup
Telocator, the Personal
Communications Industry
Association
1019 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20036

Its Attorney

Dated: June 1, 1992

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 1st day of June, 1992, I caused a copy of the foregoing "Comments of Telocator" to be mailed via first-class postage prepaid mail to the following:

Jeffrey L. Sheldon
Sean A. Stokes
UTILITIES TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCEL
1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1140
Washington, D.C. 20036

Elizabeth A. Nicholson
Elizabeth A. Nicholson